



**Testimony of the Efficiency Maine Trust  
Michael D. Stoddard, Executive Director**

**IN FAVOR OF  
*LD 940 – An Act To Establish Appliance Energy and Water Standards***

**Presented to the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (ENR)**

**March 29, 2021**

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Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, and Members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, the Efficiency Maine Trust (Efficiency Maine) appreciates the opportunity to testify today in favor of *LD 940 – An Act To Establish Appliance Energy and Water Standards*.

Efficiency Maine was established by the Legislature for the purpose of lowering the costs and pollution associated with the consumption of energy by Maine's homes and businesses. As you know, Efficiency Maine's basic tools for accomplishing this purpose are education, technical support, and financial incentives.

Over the past decade, Efficiency Maine has been recognized nationally for success in running programs that are innovative, strategically designed, affordably administered and carefully accounted for, and highly cost-effective. In our most recent Annual Report (for FY2020), Efficiency Maine calculated that its programs leveraged \$49 million of incremental private investment in energy upgrades throughout the state that will:

- achieve annual savings of 132.9 million kWh of electricity + 147,488 MMBtu of heating and industrial process fuels;
- lower energy bills by more than \$237 million over the lifetime of the upgrades installed; and
- deliver a Benefit-to-Cost Ratio, factoring in total quantified economic benefits and total incremental costs, and of 2.37-to-1 for electric measures and 2.45-to-1 for unregulated fuels and natural gas measures.

These programs are working to entice Maine's homeowners, businesses, institutions, and governmental bodies to make smarter equipment purchases and accelerate their investment in building upgrades, which in turn is strengthening Maine's economy and environment.

We are proud of these accomplishments and the valuable dividends they have paid, but it is worth noting they have not come without some costs. In conducting its programs last year, Efficiency Maine expended \$50 million. The budgets for Efficiency Maine's programs are largely funded through revenues from the electric utilities, the natural gas utilities, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), and the Forward Capacity Market, and those costs are passed through to customers.

While financial incentives will always have an important role to play in such market transitions, there are other policy tools that, under the right conditions, may be more effective and less costly. This is why, for example, building energy codes are such an important regulatory policy. And it is also why it is a best practice for a state to establish the authority to regulate minimum efficiency standards for appliances, electronics, and other common end-uses of energy. As Maine enters its next era of energy policies and programs, the State will need additional tools in its toolbox to facilitate and accelerate our transition to low-carbon, high-efficiency energy-consuming devices.

I have the highest regard for the Appliance Standards Awareness Project and am confident that you can place great value on their analysis and recommendations.

For Maine to reach its goals of improving energy affordability and ultra-low carbon emissions, it should have the tool of “Appliance Standards” in its toolbox.

Respectfully,

/s/MDS

Michael D. Stoddard  
Executive Director